

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL



225 FIFTH STREET
SPRINGFIELD OR 97477
541.726.3700
FAX 541 726 2363
www.springfield-or.gov

May 21, 2019

Mayor Vinis and Eugene City Councilors
City of Eugene
125 E. 8th Avenue, 2nd Floor
Eugene, OR 97401

Subject: Proposed Community Safety Payroll Tax

Dear Mayor Vinis and members of the Eugene City Council,

On behalf of the Springfield City Council, I am writing to provide you with our perspective as you consider the proposed Community Safety Payroll Tax. We appreciate the thoughtful discussions, planning and research of your process. Properly funding a comprehensive public safety strategy is a challenge and takes input and strategic thinking from the entire community. It has been a top priority and focus of Springfield for many years.

Finding the proper funding mechanism is a key component of a community's viable public safety strategy. Springfield chose to use an operating levy for the operation of the Springfield Justice Center and additions to the Springfield Police Department. This levy (approved and funded by Springfield residents) has increased public safety city-wide for both Springfield residents and the community at-large, including thousands of workers and visitors from Eugene. The proposed Community Safety Payroll Tax will be funded in part by Springfield community members, which is why we find the need to communicate our opposition.

While the proposed tax rate is relatively inexpensive, it will have a disproportionate impact on the paychecks of our community members. We request the Eugene City Council exempt Springfield residents from the tax completely. Springfield voters have already made a significant investment in our community public safety system and have maximized our resources and funding to address the challenges of modern cities. We oppose the Community Safety Payroll Tax and ask that you consider a more equitable approach for funding public safety that does not negatively impact our community.

Sincerely,

Christine L. Lundberg
Mayor